

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS:ROBERT WILSON THEATRE
TROUPE - PRIVATE TOUR

REF: BELGRADE'S TRANSMITTAL SLIP DATED JUNE 7, 1974

1. ROBERT WILSON IS CONSIDERED LEADING INNOVATOR AND MOV-
ING FORCE IN U.S. THEATRE TODAY. NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR
THE ARTS GAVE DOLS 25,000 TO SUPPORT PRODUCTION IN U.S.
GROUP IS WELL-RESPECTED. AUDIENCES EITHER THINK WILSON
GREATEST GENIUS IN THE WORLD OR TOTALLY ABSURD.

2. CLIVE BARNES NEW YORK TIMES REVIEW OF DEC. 18, 1973
STATED "MR. WILSON HAS DEVISED NEW KIND OF PANTOMINIC,
NON-VERBAL THEATRE THAT DEPENDS PARTLY ON VISUAL EFFECTS,
PARTLY ON CAMP HUMOR, PARTLY ON THE ARTISTIC USE OF REPE-
TITION, PARTLY ON REASSESSMENT OF THEATRICAL TIME AND
PARTLY ON THE SIMPLE EXPLOITATION OF ITS NUMBED,
HYPNOTIZED AND FREQUENTLY ENCHANTED AUDIENCE."

3. EDWIN DENBY IN NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE OF DECEMBER 9,
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1973 STATES "THE CONTENT IN WILSON'S PIECES IS THAT OF

IMAGES...IT CAN BE TRANSLATED INTO PSYCHOL;GICAL OR
NARRATIVE TERMS, INTO WORDS, BUT IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE.
IT CAN BE TAKEN DIRECTLY AS THE IMAGES AND PICTURES, AS
SOMETHING THAT KEEPS CHANGING IN THAT SENSE LIKE A DREAM.

YOU DON'T ASK WHAT A DREAM MEANS."

4. ALAN M. KRIEGSMAN IN WASHINGTON POST OF MAY T1, 1974
STATES "IT'S HARD TO KNOW HOW TO CLASSIFY WILSON'S
RECREATIONS. HE'S CALLED THEM 'STRUCTURES' OR
'CONTRACTED VISUALITIES' AT TIMES. THE FRENCH CALL THEM
OPERAS. WHATEVER YOU LABEL THEM, THEY OBVIOUSLY OPERATE
ON A MULTITUDE OF SENSORY AND IMAGINATIVE LEVELS, AND
THEY'VE MADE AN INDELIBLE IMPACT ON CONTEMPORARY THEATRE.
WILSON IS GIFTED WITH A HIGHLY ORIGINAL VISION AND
SENSIBILITY. HE HAS INVENTED WAYS OF MANIPULATING TIME,
SPACE AND MOVEMENT WHICH APPEAR TO OPEN UP NEW WORLDS OF
PERCEPTION."

5. SINCE CU/CP HAS NO REVIEW OF "LETTER TO QUEEN VICTORIA"
AVAILABLE, SUGGEST AMEMBASSY ROME ADVISE BELGRADE OF
SPOLETO REACTION WITH COPY TO DEPT. CU/CP. SISCO

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